of States and UTs. Out of 1399 MW of unallocated quota of Central Sector Generating Stations in Northern Region, Uttar Pradesh has been allocated 20-22% (280-308 MW) in different time slots of the day. This is one of the highest in Northern Region.

(d) During the current year (April to November, 2008), the energy and peak shortage in Uttar Pradesh was 18% and 22.3% respectively. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), 64 projects have been sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs.2719.51 crores and revised cost Rs.3526.98 crores. So far Rs.2920.26 crores has been released for implementation of these projects.

Cutting down power losses

1511. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken serious steps and made efforts to cut down losses of power in the country;

(b) whether the power losses and theft currently form 20-24 per cent of overall average;

(c) if so, whether the need to bring down these losses is an urgent economic imperative;

(d) whether the Ministry has taken various steps in this regard and had called a meeting of all concerned; and

(e) if so, what are the main decisions taken and what are the steps being considered to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The draft report on Performance of State Power Utilities for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2006-07 was 33.07% of the total energy available for sale.

Govt. of India had launched the flagship programme *viz.* Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms, reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction in the X Plan. The target was to reduce AT&C losses to 15% in five years to begin with in urban and high density consumption areas. AT&C loss has come down in towns where APDRP has been implemented. Further, some of the utilities which adopted various interventions as envisaged under the programme have shown significant reduction in AT&C loss. Under the programme, 571 projects were sanctioned covering approx. 906 towns in the country. At town level, AT&C losses have been brought below 20 percent in 215 APDRP towns in the country of which 163 towns have brought AT&C losses below 15 percent. However, according to draft report on Performance of State Power Utilities prepared by the Power Finance Corporation, the national AT&C loss levels were brought down from 36.64% in 2002-03 to 33.07% in 2006-07.

The Central Government has built a national consensus to focus on a time bound programme for reduction of AT&C losses. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 28th May 2007, a unanimous resolution was adopted which *inter alia* included the commitment of the States, with appropriate assistance from the Centre, to establish the necessary baseline data and information technology applications for energy accounting and auditing, and for ensuring a resolute elimination of electricity theft.

(e) The Government have approved the continuation of APDRP during the XI Five Year Plan with revised terms and conditions as a Central Sector Scheme. The focus of the programme during XI Plan is on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of loss reduction. In the project area, the State Power Utilities are expected to achieve Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) loss reduction target of 15%. The Utilities are also to achieve the following target of AT&C loss reduction at utility level:

- Utilities having AT&C loss above 30%: Reduction by 3% per year
- Utilities having AT&C loss below 30%: Reduction by 1.5% per year

Projects under the scheme are to be taken up in Two Parts. Part-A is to include the projects for establishment of baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting / auditing & IT based consumer service centers. Part-B includes regular distribution strengthening projects. Scheme also contains provision of incentive for utility staff in towns where AT&C loss levels are brought below the base line levels.

Changes in power sector

1512. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's power sector needs radical changes particularly in distribution sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the generation and distribution of power is not upto the mark resulting in affecting the economic growth; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Government of India is well aware of the needs of the power sector in the present dynamic scenario. Government of India has enacted Electricity Act 2003 and launched a number of important programmes like the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), Capacity Addition Programme, Development of National Grid and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme, etc. for improving the power sector of the country.

Radical changes, particularly in distribution sector have already been mandated in the Electricity Act 2003, as under:-

i) Restructuring of State Electricity Board.

(ii) Endeavour to extend supply to all villages/ hamlets.